



LITTLE GADDES DEN *parish council*

**MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE VILLAGE HALL on
21st October, 2019**

PLEASE NOTE THAT MINUTES ARE ALSO PUBLISHED ON THE VILLAGE WEB SITE
<http://www.littlegaddesden.org.uk>

The meeting commenced at 8.00 pm.

PRESENT: Cllrs. Hyde, Kelly, Pritchard, Saner, Townsend. Also in attendance, Alastair Greene (Clerk), County and District Councillor Terry Douris and six members of the public.

APOLOGIES: Cllrs. Lawson & Magson.

1. FORMALITIES

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting

The attendance register was signed. There were no declarations of interest.

The minutes of the previous two meetings (Sept and Extraordinary Sept) were agreed as correct records of the meetings and were signed at the end of the meeting.

2. OPEN SESSION FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr. Kelly asked if anyone wished to raise any matters not already covered in the agenda, however there were no comments.

3. REPORTS AND MATTERS ARISING

(a) To receive a report from Hertfordshire Constabulary.

The Clerk confirmed that there had been two burglaries in Hudnall Common and one in the Grovells.

(b) National Trust presentation on planned woodland work this autumn.

Emily Smith, Countryside Manager for the National Trust and Susie Mercer explained that their 20 year, Woodland Management Plan had been two years in the making but had been finally approved by all appropriate bodies including the Forestry Commission. The overall aim was to protect the historic characteristics of the estate and restore the parkland style of the estate. Their main plan for this autumn was to fell areas of conifers and protect the ancient woodland. In particular the pine woods at Frithsden Copse will be felled and the NT wanted to give advance notice that the timber lorries would be routed through Little Gaddesden. Councillors asked and the NT agreed, that to avoid congestion and to ensure safe passage of vehicles through the tight pinch points of the village, the National Trust will provide an advanced escort for the timber lorries.

Cllr Kelly asked whether the car parking proposal was still progressing. Susie Mercer said that they were looking at introducing car parking on the large field near the monument and that there would be two consultation sessions for the public at the visitor centre, dates to be advised.

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

Cllr Kelly asked whether the Deer cull was going to go ahead this year and Susie Mercer said that it would commence as usual on November 1st. She advised that there was not a target number of deer to be culled. She was pleased that there were some signs of recovery from the previous overgrazing.

(c) Fund raising for the Village Hall improvements.

Cllr. Kelly advised that he would be speaking to David Brattle regarding proposals.

(d) Planned actions against the ROSPA Playsafety reports

The Clerk confirmed that the painting of the Church Road Play Equipment had been completed but part will have to be re-done due to the failure to prepare the metal properly. The detail on the quotes for the further repairs by Dacorum BC were awaited.

Cllr Hyde mentioned that a splendid new picnic table had been positioned on the Church Road Play Area which was a great addition to the park. This had been provided courtesy of Barry Deadman and family to commemorate the passing of his wife who had enjoyed the park in the past.

(e) The surface and entrance of the Bowls Club car park.

The Clerk confirmed he had received two quotes and was awaiting a third, however it was agreed that no action would be taken until the adjacent landowner had given his consent to surfacing of the entrance area. It was also agreed that the Parish Council would seek donations from the main users of the car park.

(f) Adopting the General Power of Competence (GPC).

The Clerk explained that the Parish Council as a body had limited powers, many of which were set out in the Local Government Act 1972 and in subsequent legislation. Central Government were aware that in some ways, having specific powers only, prevented forward looking Councils from carrying out activities that would be beneficial to the public in their Parish. For that reason, the Government had, for qualifying Councils, designed the GPC which in effect gives the power to Parish Councils to carry out any activity that an individual could do. An example of that would be to make Charitable donations or to operate a business.

This removal of the shackles on powers would run for the duration of the Council ie until May 2023 and continue even if the Clerk retires in that period. The Clerk in speaking to the HAPTC and other Town and Parish Councils confirmed that there were no obvious downsides to adopting the GPC. In effect it was a useful tool if needed but there was no obligation to do anything different as a result of adopting the GPC.

To qualify, Councils must have at least two thirds of their Councillors as elected officials (rather than co-opted) and they should have a Clerk who had obtained the CILCA qualification.

The Council agreed therefore to formally minute that with immediate effect that the Parish Council had adopted the GPC.

(g) Status of the Conservation Area Character Appraisal.

Cllr Hyde advised that the work was progressing well with just a few final surveys and a little work on the document required before reviewing progress with Dacorum BC.

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

(h) Feedback on the DriveSafe Report for September.

Cllr Hyde provided the results of the latest session.

Location :- Deer Leap Horticulture , monitoring vehicles entering the village from Nettleden, between 0730hrs and 0900hrs.

The total number of vehicles passed was 137, of which 35 (26%) were travelling at 35mph or more.

The average speed of those recorded vehicles was 39mph. The median was 37mph. The range was from 35mph – 46mph. Only one vehicle exceeded 45mph (46mph) and none therefore over 50mph. So fewer excessive speeding vehicles this time.

(i) Feedback on the verge clearance at Beacon Road.

Cllr. Terry Douris advised he had taken the first steps required in relation to the clearance.

(j) Review of two documents, Standing Orders and Public Participation at meetings policy.

Both documents were adopted as amended and signed at the end of the meeting.

(k) Luton Airport expansion/flightpath issues.

Cllr. Pritchard noted that a public consultation had been launched by Luton London Airport Ltd with a series of events at various locations in the district. There was not an event in Little Gaddesden, however, the nearest one was at Dagnall. It was agreed that the Clerk would put the details on the notice board next the shop and on the parish web site.

The introductory text on the consultation states:-

'We are consulting and asking for your feedback on our expansion plans to make best use of the runway at London Luton Airport. We are London Luton Airport Ltd – the company that owns London Luton Airport.

Expanding London Luton Airport to handle up to 32 million passengers a year would bring significant benefits that would be shared locally, regionally and nationally.

We recognise that our proposals would bring impacts, for the environment and people who live and work nearby.

We are committed to minimising and mitigating these impacts and are setting out measures to tackle them, including for noise, climate change, air quality and transport.

Our consultation begins on Wednesday 16 October and ends at 11:59pm on Monday 16 December. Our proposed development for achieving phased airport growth to 2039 will be displayed at a series of consultation events in your area.

At the events you will have an opportunity to view the proposals, speak to members of the expert project team, and provide your feedback.

Since our first consultation held in summer 2018, we have reviewed all of the feedback provided to help develop our proposals.

We are consulting again now to show you how our plans have developed, and to hear your views.'

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

(l) Christmas Carols on the Green Dec 16th

Cllr Kelly confirmed the date of the Carols event. Councillors discussed whether or not to change the date of the Parish Council meeting that had been planned for that night and it was agreed to bring forward the meeting by one week to December 9th.

(m) Soldier Silhouettes on the Green Remembrance Sunday.

Cllr Hyde confirmed that the three silhouettes had been placed on the Green, one at the Hudnall Lane end, one at the Adelaide Memorial and one at the War Memorial. Everyone agreed that they had a strong impact and agreed that they would be left in position until 12th night.

(n) Thames Water sewerage leak across the Green

Cllr Hyde advised that there had been a sewer problem on the Green again. Cllr Terry Douris suggested approaching Mike Penning MP to get this matter resolved with Thames Water.

(o) Review of the Draft Policy for Consultation – Little Gaddesden Church of England Primary School Admissions Policy for 2021/2022

Cllr Pritchard advised she had read through the Policy and felt it was fair and reasonable, there being few changes since the previous version.

Items brought forward from previous meetings

Ringshall Flooding.

Cllr Terry Douris advised that the gullies in Beacon road had been cleared out and in future those gullies will remain on a more frequent clearance programme than normal. Terry advised that the Phase 2 works were still on the Works Programme for Q4.

4. ADMINISTRATION

(i) Correspondence not already covered above and that requires action by the Council

The Clerk advised that he had received a request from Jane Levy on behalf of the Friends of Little Gaddesden School, asking for permission to erect a marquee on the Church Road playing field adjacent to the Sports pavilion for an event on 29th Feb 2020. The Council agreed in principle and but would need to approve the details nearer the time.

The Clerk advised that he had received confirmation of the PPP grant from HCC for £1,000 and sought approval to appoint a contractor to carry out works on the Cromer Close footpath (resurfacing) and the Bridgewater Arms to Ringshall Drive footpath (rebuilding of the lower two steps). Quotes had been received from four contractors the lowest one being from Malcolm Weaver. The Parish Council agreed for the work to proceed at a cost of c. £700.

The Clerk advised he had been copied in on an email from Jim Jack to the Enforcement Team at Dacorum Borough Council regarding Helicopter flights from Witchcraft Hill, Ringshall Drive.

Cllr. Townsend had advised the Clerk by email that Ashridge Hult were planning to do some road repairs on the college road in November, it was not proposed that the road be closed whilst the works were being carried out.

(ii) Finance

The schedule of payments was approved together with the report on expenditure for the previous month.

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

Finance Schedule

a. The Council approved the following payments:-

Clerk & Village Hall Manager – Salary & PAYE for **Oct**
 SRT Trading Limited – £220 plus vat– Warden Services (**Oct** invoice)
 MWAgri – £692 ex vat (**Oct** invoice)
 Petty Cash payment £43.74 inc vat to Clerk. Stationery and Phone
 Action, Play & Leisure £41 ex vat Play area steering wheel
 John Cromar supplementary tree report £275.50 ex vat
 Village hall Management Committee £135 Hall hire
 E-on Electricity on the Green - £22.35 inc vat

b. Cheques/payments received

LGVH Management Committee - Village Hall Manager salary
 B Gibson £488 (paid in error by Clerk now repaid by Clerk)
 Cricket Club grass clearance repayment of £450 - cost incurred by Parish Council over the year for the Cricket Club

(iii) Health and Safety

The Clerk confirmed that the Safety inspections of the play areas had taken place on 16th and 17th October, 2019. No new faults found.

PLANNING SCHEDULE - CURRENT APPLICATIONS (status at 21st October 2019)
 (**Red text** show changes since previous meeting)

5 LITTLE GADDESSEN HOUSE REAR SINGLE STOREY EXTENSION, 4/01810/19/FHA and 4/01811/19/LBC. **No objection from LGPC, no decision yet by DBC**

49 NETTLEDEN ROAD REPLACEMENT WINDOWS. 4/01706/19/LBC
 Supported by LGPC, **Granted by DBC**

MEADOW FARM, THE GROVELLS, ALTERATIONS TO BARN. 4/01754/19/FUL Change of use from Agriculture to residential. **Supported by LGPC. Decision awaited by DBC**

9 NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. SINGLE AND 2 STOREY EXTENSION TO REAR. 4/02014/19/FHA
Objection by LGPC. DBC decision awaited

31-32 NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. RELOCATION OF EXISTING ROOFLIGHT IN SOUTH EAST FACING TO NORTH WEST FACING ROOF PITCH. 4/01502/19/LBC
Supported by LGPC, Granted by DBC

THE BRIDGEWATER ARMS, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. INSTALLATION OF REPLACEMENT ILLUMINATED AND NON-ILLUMINATED SIGN TO THE EXTERIOR OF THE BUILDING. 4/02054/19/ADV and 4/02106/19/LBC **Objection by LGPC. DBC decision awaited**

BEANEY, NETTLEDEN ROAD. FELL T1 AND T2 SCOTS PINE. 4/02084/19/TCA
Supported by LGPC, DBC decision - Raise no objection

10 RINGSHALL ROAD, RINGSHALL. CONSTRUCTION OF WOODEN SUMMER HOUSE IN REAR GARDEN. 4/02087/19/FHA **No objection from LGPC, no decision by DBC**

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....

SILVER BIRCHES, NETTLEDEN ROAD NORTH. RETENTION OF CHANGE OF USE OF A BARN INTO A RESIDENTIAL DWELLING, ROOF EXTENSION WITH DORMER EXTENSION. MODIFICATIONS TO OPENINGS. 4/02148/19/RET **This is an application for retrospective permission for the conversion of a barn/shed into a three bedroomed dwelling. The work was started without planning permission in July 2017 and completed in January 2019.**

Dacorum's core strategy for its countryside area is that there should be a limited number of new dwellings in identified small villages in Dacorum between 2006 and 2026. Little Gaddesden is not one of the identified villages. It follows therefore that permission for this new dwelling is unlikely to have been granted if permission had been applied for prior to the commencement of works and planning permission should not be granted retrospectively.

Little Gaddesden Parish Council therefore objects to this application.
DBC decision awaited

Applications received since the last meeting.

After the public attending this meeting had had an opportunity to comment on the applications below, the Planning Working Group made the following recommendations to the full Parish Council.

ST PETER AND ST PAUL, CHURCH ROAD. VARIATION OF CONDITION 6 (APPROVED PLANS) ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 4/02049/17/LBC (EXTENSION OF EXISTING SINGLE STOREY VESTRY BUILDING ADJACENT TO THE CHURCH. EXTENSION OF LINK BETWEEN VESTRY AND CHURCH BUILDINGS. CONSTRUCTION OF GLAZED ROOF AND WEST END WALL. PARTIAL GLAZING TO EAST END WALL OF LINK AREA). 4/02353/19/LBC
No objection from LGPC

ST PETER AND ST PAUL, CHURCH ROAD. VARIATION OF CONDITION 9 (APPROVED PLANS) ATTACHED TO PLANNING PERMISSION 4/02048/17/FUL 4/02352/19/ROC
No objection from LGPC

NORWOOD HOUSE, THE GREEN. Remove branches from large Eucalyptus tree on border of neighbouring property. 19/02540/TCA **No objection from LGPC**

Information to share / Items for the next meeting

Cllr Pritchard confirmed that she would approach Neil Rogers regarding the cost of a twenty foot Christmas Tree for the Green.

It was noted that some damage had been caused to the National Trust land by vehicles attending the redevelopment of the Summer House on the Green. It was agreed that the Parish Council would alert the developer to this and ask for its reinstatement.

The meeting closed at **10.30pm.** The next meeting is on **Monday 18th November 2019.**

Signed by the Chairman..... Dated.....